

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions of claims in the application.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A perpendicular magnetic recording medium comprising:
 - a magnetic layer formed above a substrate, said magnetic layer containing Co and Cr as a main component;
 - a first layer formed on an opposite side of the magnetic layer relative to the substrate, said first layer including an amorphous alloy layer containing rare earth metals and 3d transition metals as a main component, wherein a thickness of said first layer ranges from 2nm to 10nm; and
 - a second layer formed on said first layer, said second layer containing Co and Cr.
2. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said first layer is a multilayer film including the amorphous alloy layer containing the rare earth metals and the 3d transition metals as the main component and other layers.

3. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 2, wherein said multilayer film is one composed of the amorphous alloy layer containing the rare earth metals and the 3d transition metals as the main component and an alloy film containing Co and Cr as a main component.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said first layer contains one of TbFeCo, TbCo and TbFe as a main component.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said second layer ranges from 0.5 nm to 10 nm.

8. (Currently Amended) A magnetic storage apparatus comprising:
a perpendicular magnetic recording medium;
a magnetic recording head; and
a signal reproduction head,
wherein said perpendicular magnetic recording media include a magnetic layer formed on a substrate, the magnetic layer containing Co and Cr as a main

component; a first layer formed on an opposite side of the magnetic layer relative to the substrate, said first layer including an amorphous alloy layer containing rare earth metals and 3d transition metals as a main component; and a second layer formed on said first layer including the amorphous alloy layer, said second layer containing Co and Cr, wherein a thickness of said first layer ranges from 2nm to 10nm.

9. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic layer is the main recording layer of said recording medium.

10. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said magnetic layer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of Co-Cr-Ta, Co-Cr-Pt, Co-Cr-Pt-Ta and Co-Cr-Pt-B.

11. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said first layer is a thermal-stabilizing layer of the recording medium.

12. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said second layer is provided on the surface of the first layer.

13. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising a protective and lubricant layer on the second layer.

14. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 13, wherein said protective and lubricant layer includes carbon, and the second layer suppresses reaction of the carbon.

15. (Previously Presented) The perpendicular magnetic recording medium according to claim 14, wherein said protective and lubricant layer, which includes carbon, is made of a material selected from the group consisting of carbon, silicon carbide and boron carbide.